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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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THE economy of a newly established colony is long greatly influenced by a scarcity of labor. The first necessity is to meet the requirements of its own people ; but this done, the conditions favorable to production incident to a virgin territory, a temperate climate, and a notable capacity for raising produce of commercial importance, soon outstrip the labor available for production. The riches so lavishly offered by nature create a market for labor, and the artificial stimulus of legislation may heighten the demands for this commodity. Virginia, in colonial days, was in this position. The fiscal system in operation among the leading European nations had induced the prohibition of the culture of tobacco throughout the greater part of that continent, and the production of this plant had become largely centralized in the two English plantations of Maryland and Virginia, the annual export being about 96,000 hogsheads. Of this only about 14,000 were actually consumed by Great Britain, the remainder passing through the hands of her merchants to be distributed among the markets of Continental Europe, an arrangement, enforced by legislation, and ensuring largely to the profit of the English and Scotch

factors, but at the expense of the planter. The latter sold in a monopoly market, for he could sell only in Great Britain; and all his purchases were made in a like market, for the essence of the commercial system of the day was to make him dependent, commercially and industrially, on the mother country.

To produce this tobacco, a large supply of labor was necessary, and the larger, because the most wasteful form of labor was generally employed—that of slaves. It has been estimated that while a single laborer can cultivate twenty acres of corn or wheat, he would be unable to manage more than two acres of tobacco;\* and if we take the average production of a slave at 1000 pounds of tobacco a year (an estimate suggested by Adam Smith), it will easily be seen that a very large number of negroes was necessary. The proportion of blacks to whites throughout the colony has been estimated to have been about four to one, but this is an excessive figure for the slaves. It is safe however to say that in Virginia the slaves were about equal to one-half of the white population, and in Maryland the population was about the same. The capital invested in slaves was thus large, and they were regarded as "real estate," as specially provided for in the wills and transfers as the land and plantation buildings. The direct trade between Europe and the two tobacco colonies was of a limited character, confined principally to the transport of tobacco from the colonies, and manufactures from Great Britain. A "Guinea" ship, whose cargo was slaves, rarely came

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\* Russell, *Agriculture and Climate of North America*, 141.

to those parts, as it was more convenient for it to go to the sugar plantations of the British West Indies, and exchange its living freight for the sugar that was to be turned into rum in New England—the currency that found a ready circulation in Africa. The supply of negroes that Virginia required was obtained from the West Indies, or, when a northern province wished to get rid of what slaves it had, by shipments from the north.

These slaves were completely at the will of their owners, and, as a rule, appear to have been well treated and cared for so far as housing, clothing and food were concerned. Instances may be cited of cruelty, of unusual punishment for the natural indolence of the black, or for outbursts of their animal natures. The country was in perpetual fear of outbreaks and revolts, and few possibilities were regarded with greater terror, or could inspire more intense feelings—as was shown by the wave of indignation and abhorrence that followed Dunmore's attempt to arm the slaves against their masters. An intractable or disagreeable slave was usually got rid of by being shipped to and sold in the West Indies. In 1766 Washington sent to those islands, to be exchanged for spirits, rum and sweet-meats, an "exceedingly hearty" negro, good at the hoe, but a "rogue and a runaway," and suggesting that he would sell well if "kept clean and trim'd up a little." In the *Boston Evening Post* for 1761, a skipper offered to take in exchange for "small likely" negroes, "any negro men, strong and hearty, tho' not of the best moral character, which are proper subjects for transportation."

Their

Their value, however, was one of the reasons for good treatment. A planter could not afford to maltreat them. In the twenty years previous to the Revolution, their market price was greatly increased, although the management of estates was just about to so change as to make their labor no longer profitable—the cultivation of wheat supplanting that of tobacco. Of course, mere quotations of money prices will not be conclusive evidence of this rise in value, as so much would depend upon the quality of the slave, the condition of the slave market, and the valuation of the paper money of the province. In 1754 Washington bought a “fellow” for £40. 5; another (Jack) for £52. 5, and a negro woman (Clio), for £50. In 1756, he purchased of the Governor (Dinwiddie) a negro woman and child for £60, and two years later a fellow (Gregory) for £60. 9. In the following year (the year of his marriage) he bought largely; a negro (Will) for £50; another for £60; nine for £406, an average of £35; and a woman (Hannah) and child, £80. In 1762 he added to the number by purchasing seven of Lee Massey for £300 (an average of £43), and two of Col. Fielding Lewis, at £115—or £57. 10 apiece. From the estate of Francis Hubbs he bought in 1764, Ben, £72, Lewis, £36. 10, and Sarah, £20. Another fellow, bought of Sarah Alexander, cost him £76; and a negro (Judy) and child, sold by Garvin Corbin, £63. In 1768, Mary Lee sold him two mulattoes (Will and Frank) for £61.15 and £50, respectively; and two boys (negroes), Adam and Frank, for £19 apiece.

The association that followed the stamp act troubles  
may

may have influenced prices; for after 1769 there occurs a notable rise. In 1770, a negro fellow (Bath) was sold for £66.10, and "at publick vendue in 1773, a fellow (Ned) for £72 and a girl Murria, £49.10." The quotations for this commodity for 1772, bear out this assertion: Anthony, £70; London, £65; Strephon, £50; and James and Isaac £90 each. These are the last purchases I find noted; but it will be seen that with 75 or 80 slaves on his different plantations, Washington had quite a handsome amount invested in that form. It was a very uncertain form, also; for the blacks were liable to run away; they might be swept away by small-pox, gaol fever or any other malignant disorder, by no means uncommon in the country; sickness was so frequent that Dr. John Laurie was paid £15 a year for attending to all his people in Fairfax county. This was not exorbitant, but I fear the Doctor's reliability was not worth a high price, for on April 9th, 1760, I find the entry in Washington's Diary "Doctor Lawrie came here, I may add, drunk." July 19, 1760, "Received a letter from my overseer Hardwick informing me that the small-pox was surrounding the plantations he overlooked." In the winter of 1759-60 he lost four negroes by that disease. The daily notes of Washington show much sickness among his slaves, so the Doctor undoubtedly earned his wages.

There was a number of more intelligent negroes, capable of working at some trade, like carpentering, wood joining, etc. who were hired of their owners by planters needing their services for limited periods. A  
carpenter

carpenter was rented out in 1756 for £20 a year; and the form of such a lease is given in this volume. I do not find, however, that this was a common occurrence.

Next to the slave comes the indentured or "covenant servant." A contract entered into by such a servant for his transportation is given in full in the appendix. On arriving at the plantation the skipper would dispose of the covenant servant for the time covenanted at a price which, like that of the slave, was controlled by the skill or strength of the servant, and the demand for such labor. This was usually terms very profitable to the skipper; for £30 was a fair price for a servant of average abilities, and the expenses of transporting the man were about £6 to £13 at the most. In 1773 Washington paid £35 for a gardener and £6, 10. 9 for his passage from Leeds; the year before he had bought an indentured servant (Andrew Judge) for £30.

"They [these servants] were treated as part of the body of citizens, and were compelled to bear arms and do militia duty. They were prevented from running away and from vagrancy by severe penalties and rigid laws. All servants, 'whether by indenture, or according to the custom of the country, or hired for wages,' were liable to be taken up as runaways if caught ten miles from home without written permission from their masters. If absent without leave, ten days were to be added to their term of service for every day's absence. The person who harbored a runaway was fined 500 pounds of tobacco for each twenty-four hours, and to be whipped if unable to pay the fine. There was a standing reward of 200 pounds of tobacco for taking up runaways, and Indians who captured such vagrants were given

given a match coat for each runaway they took. Trading with servants without permission of masters was a finable offence. But the law was just as well as severe. It gave servants the right of petition in county courts. It compelled redemptioners to be brought into court to have their ages determined. If they were transported servants without indentures, they were to be sold for a term of five years, if over 22 years old; if between the ages of 18 and 22, six years; if between 15 and 18, seven years; under 15, to serve until 22 years old. Their term of service was deemed to begin from the moment the vessel anchored, and in no case later than fourteen days after her coming inside the Capes. If master, mistress, or overseer starved, ill-lodged, ill-clothed, or overworked servants, excessively beat or abused them, or gave them more than ten lashes for any offence, they were fined 1000 pounds of tobacco, and if convicted three times, the servant was set free. If a greater correction was needed by servants, they must be taken before a magistrate. When they became free at the end of their term of service, servants received a 'freedom due.' This was explicitly defined in the statute. 'Every man servant, according to the custom of the country, shall have given to him at the expiration of his term of service:\* one new hat, one new suit (coat and breeches) of kersey or broad cloth, a white linen shift, a pair of French fall shoes, stockings, two houghs, one axe, one gun of twenty shillings value, not above four feet in the barrel, nor under three and a half feet,' to be delivered to him in the presence of a magistrate, and which he was forbidden to sell during the first twelve months, together with a supply of ammunition. Woman servants were to have a waistcoat and petticoat of 'new half-thick or Permestone, a new shift of white linen, shoes and stockings, a blue apron,

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\* "By your freedom dues according to the custom of the country, £3. 10." Entry in Washington's *Ledger*.

two white linen caps, and three barrels of Indian corn.'''\*

Such is a summary of the laws of Maryland applying to redemptioners, or covenant servants, and in Virginia the legislation was nearly the same. In spite of this protection, the condition of these laborers became bad as the dependence on slave labor became greater; and while in the beginning their position was better than that of an apprentice in England, being better clothed, better fed, better housed, and worked less continuously or severely, yet just before the Revolution they were described as "groaning under a worse than Egyptian bondage."

A genuine redemptioner was, often, a laborer of good intelligence and skill, possessed of a knowledge of some "art or mystery" acquired by an apprenticeship in the mother country. This class represented the skilled labor of the colony, and could find a ready market at a fair price. There were also men of education among them. Washington is said to have received his first schooling at the hands of an indentured servant; Archibald Alexander, the elder, was taught the rudiments of Latin by such a one. Alsop and Hammond, who have written of Maryland, were redemptioners. And in Maryland these servants were so common that Governor Sharpe could write in 1755, that "the planters' fortunes here consist in the number of their servants (who are purchased at high rates), much as the estates of an English farmer do in the multitude of cattle." And in 1756, when British recruiting officers were

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\*Scharf, II. 15.

scouring

scouring the province for recruits, he wrote : " Few but indented servants have enlisted . . . and that method of recruiting will distress the country infinitely more than a decimation of its free inhabitants."

Not every imported servant was considered of value ; the number might be so large that the colonies could not absorb them, and thus demoralize the market, or they might be of such quality as not to make them a desirable acquisition for a plantation. Of the former we may count the German emigration to Pennsylvania, and of the latter, the kidnapped or transported convicts. This movement of the Palatines has interest in connection with the present issue, because of the wish of Washington to import a number for settling his western lands ; but as the movement was voluntary, in large numbers, and for the purposes of settlement, I pass over it for the moment, and take up the transportation of convicts.

The practice of sending to America what it was troublesome for England to maintain, was much older than the reign of the House of Hanover in England. " In 1619 James I, issued an order that certain vile and dissolute persons who swarmed the streets of London should be arrested and sent to Virginia. The city companies, at the request of the Lord Mayor, voted a considerable sum towards paying the expenses of their shipment, and at the same time determined to send a hundred destitute children with them. In 1687 Judge Jeffries sent a large number of those who had been convicted of rebellion in the Monmouth insurrection to Virginia, but these were afterwards pardoned and  
returned

returned from exile. The position of these people in Virginia was that of 'conditional servitude.'""\* In 1662 the justices of peace in any county could sentence "such rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars" as might be adjudged to be "incorrigible" to be transported to "any of the English plantations beyond the seas" (13 & 14 Car. II, c. 12.)

By a law passed in 1717 (4 Geo. 1, c. 11), persons convicted of offenses within the benefit of clergy, except receivers and buyers of stolen goods, and persons convicted of exporting wool or wool fells, should be sent to the Plantations for seven years, the court that passed the conviction contracting for their transportation. For greater offenses, such as were excluded from the benefit of clergy, they might be transported for 14 years, or a term fixed by the court, and the persons contracting for their transportation should have a property and interest in the service of the offenders for that term of years. The contractor was to give bond for the effectual transport of the criminal. "And whereas," the act continued, "there are many idle persons who are under the age of one and twenty years, lurking about in divers parts of London, and elsewhere, who want employment, and may be tempted to become thieves, if not provided for: and whereas they may be inclined to be transported, and to enter into service in some of his Majesty's colonies and Plantations in America; but as they have no power to contract for themselves, and therefore that it is not safe for merchants to transport them, or take them into such

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\*Stillé, in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, January, 1889.  
services,"

services," it was provided that merchants or others might contract with persons of the age of 15 and under 21, to serve them in America for any period not exceeding 8 years. The provisions of this act were not extended to Scotland until 1766, and in the meantime (1734) assault with intent to commit robbery was included among felonies punishable by a transportation of seven years (7 Geo. 2, c. 21). These appear to have been the laws under which convicts were transported to America until the outbreak of the Revolution, when a change was made to solitary confinement, hard labor on the Thames galleys, or transportation to other of the British possessions.

It is very natural to find the colonies objecting to this practice of dumping the dangerous classes of England on to their shores. But the trade was too profitable to the contractor to be easily broken down. One of these contractors testified in 1779 that he paid the government £5 a head for transportable convicts, and sold them in Virginia and Maryland at prices ranging from £10 for males not artificers, to £15 and £25 for skilled mechanics. For seven years he had transported on the average 473 convicts annually to those colonies. In 1737 the *Pennsylvania Gazette* called attention to the arrival of a vessel bringing 66 indentures, and 22 wigs, the intention being to wig the convicts and pass them off as decent servants. In 1750 a Philadelphia writer said: "In what could Britain injure us more than emptying her jails on us? What must we think of those merchants who, for the sake of a little petty gain, will be concerned in importing and disposing of these  
abominable

abominable cargoes." In a paper attributed by Sparks to Franklin, contributed to the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, the writer said: "We may all remember the time when our mother country, as a mark of her parental tenderness, emptied her gaols into our habitations, '*for the better peopling*,' as she expressed it, *of the colonies*. It is certain that no due returns have yet been made for these valuable consignments. We are therefore much in her debt on that account; and, as she is of late clamorous for the payment of all we owe her, and some of our debts are of a kind not so easily discharged, I am for doing what is in our power. It will show our good-will as to the rest. The felons she planted among us have produced such an amazing increase, that we are now enabled to make ample remittance in the same commodity." And he proposed that every English ship coming to Pennsylvania should give a bond engaging to carry back to Britain at least one felon for every fifty tons of her burthen.\* In 1755, under the idea that the neighboring colony of Pennsylvania and some of the West India islands had enacted a similar law, Maryland imposed a duty of £1 on imported servants, but the duty was disallowed. "It is truly hard upon the Province," wrote Cecil Calvert to Governor Sharpe, "that the scum and dregs of the people here sent, should be the cause of ruin to honest men there."

Washington had among his servants a few such convicts. In 1766 I find an entry, "By expenses to the convict ship, 3 dollars." But it is difficult to distinguish what he might have purchased of that form

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\* Franklin's Writings (Sparks), II. 495.

of import, and not until 1774 have I noted a specific example. Then, at the very time he was considering the expediency of importing Palatines, as shown in the following letters, he sent Valentine Crawford to Baltimore to obtain ten servants to take with him to the Ohio. "I have purchased for you," wrote Mr. McGachen of that city, "four men convicts, four indented servants for three years, and a man and his wife for four years. The price is, I think, rather high; but as they are country, likely people, and you at present wanted them, Mr. Crawford said he imagined you would be well satisfied with our bargain. I have agreed to pay £110 sterling for them. . . They are at present scarce, and in demand."

The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography for 1878, contains the translation of an essay by Dr. J. G. de Hopps Scheffer, of Amsterdam, on the "Mennonite Emigration to Pennsylvania."\* No little light is thrown upon the migration from the German States to the British colonies in America, and there must be some understanding of this movement of population before the full meaning of the letters published in this pamphlet can be grasped. Late in the seventeenth century, under the religious persecutions of the time, the emigration of Swiss, Palatines and Lithauers to Pennsylvania began, the travellers being assisted in their long voyage by their co-religionists in Holland and elsewhere. The first settlements were made at Germantown and along the Delaware, but the beginnings were so unfavorable as to discourage those

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\* See also Rupp's valuable *List of Emigrants to Pennsylvania*.

who had an interest in the colonies, and as early as 1709 the inducement of assistance was taken away. Certain families from Worms, who wished to go to Pennsylvania in 1679, were described as "altogether very poor men," bringing with them "scarcely anything that is necessary in the way of raiment and shoes, much less the money that must be spent for fare from here [Rotterdam] to England, and from there on the great journey, before they can settle in that foreign land." The English Quakers were also willing to assist the persecuted Palatines to get beyond the reach of their persecutors, and it was no uncommon sight to see Mennonite families in England awaiting an opportunity for securing passage for America. The government of Bern, burdened with its overcrowded prisons—a situation arising from the religious persecutions—sent in 1710 a number to Pennsylvania; and the offers in 1717 of an English agent of land west of the Alleghenies, doubtless influenced many to migrate, so many as to attract the attention of the Governor of Pennsylvania. (*Colonial Records*, III, 29.) The migration continued in the subsequent years, varying in volume with the political situation at home and the reports from America. Moreover the church funds were no longer applied to assist needy emigrants, and it was doubtless for this reason, more than any other, that the movement became an object of speculation. In 1765 we find mention of 800 men, women and children, brought by a speculator from the Palatinate, Franconia and Suabia, to England, and being deserted there, lay in Goodman's Fields, in the open air and without

without food.\* The number of Germans in Pennsylvania at the beginning of the Revolution is not known, but they must have formed a numerous and powerful body. In 1738 Governor Thomas attributed the prosperity of the province "in a great measure" to the industry of these people.† In 1751, on the other hand, Franklin wrote against them, fearing that their great numbers would "Germanize" the Province. Why, he asked, "should the Palatine boors be suffered to swarm into our settlements, and by herding together, establish their language and manners, to the exclusion of our own?"‡ Two years later he had no reason to change his opinions. "Those who come hither are generally the most stupid of their own nation, and, as ignorance is often attended with credulity when knavery would mislead it, and with suspicion when honesty would set it right, and as few of the English understand the German language, and so cannot address them either from the press or the pulpit, it is almost impossible to remove any prejudices they may entertain. Their clergy have very little influence on the people, who seem to take a pleasure in abusing and discharging the minister on every trivial occasion. Not being used to liberty, they know not how to make a modest use of it. And as Kolbur says of the young Hottentots, that they are not esteemed men until they have shown their manhood by *beating their mothers*, so these seem not to think themselves free, till they can

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\* Francis, *Annals of Assurance*, 142.

† Speech to the Assembly.

‡ *Works* (Bigelow's edition), II, 233.

feel their liberty by abusing and insulting their teachers. Thus they are under no restraint from ecclesiastical government; they behave, however, submissively enough at present to the civil government, which I wish they may continue to do—for I remember when they modestly declined intermeddling in our elections, but now they come in droves and carry all before them, except in one or two counties.

“Few of their children in the country know English. They import many books from Germany; and of the six printing-houses in the province, two are entirely German, two half German half English, and but two entirely English. They have one German newspaper, and one half-German. Advertisements, intended to be general, are now printed in Dutch and English. The signs in our streets have inscriptions in both languages, and in some places only German. They begin of late to make all their bonds and other legal instruments in their own language, which (though I think it ought not to be) are allowed good in our courts, where the German business so increases that there is continued need of interpreters; and I suppose in a few years they will also be necessary in the Assembly, to tell one-half of our legislators what the other half say.

“In short, unless the stream of their importation could be turned from this to other colonies, as you very judiciously propose, they will soon so outnumber us that all the advantages we have will, in my opinion, be not able to preserve our language, and even our government will become precarious. The  
French,

French, who watch all advantages, are now themselves making a German settlement, back of us, in the Illinois country, and by means of these Germans they may in time come to an understanding with ours; and, indeed, in the past war, our Germans showed a general disposition that seemed to bode us no good. For, when the English, who were not Quakers, alarmed by the danger arising from the defenceless state of our country, entered unanimously into an association, and within this government and the Lower Counties raised, armed and disciplined near ten thousand men, the Germans, except a very few in proportion to their number, refused to engage in it, giving out, one amongst another, and even in print, that if they were quiet, the French, should they take the country, would not molest them; at the same time abusing the Philadelphians for fitting out privateers against the enemy, and representing the trouble, hazard, and expense of defending the province, as a greater inconvenience than any that might be expected from a change of government. Yet I am not for refusing to admit them entirely into our colonies; all that seems to me necessary is, to distribute them more equally, mix them with the English, establish English schools where they are now too thick settled, and take some care to prevent the practice, lately fallen into by some of the ship-owners, of sweeping the German gaols to make up the number of their passengers. I say I am not against the admission of Germans in general, for they have their virtues. Their industry and frugality are exemplary. They are  
 excellent

excellent husbandmen, and contribute greatly to the improvement of a country.'''\*

It would naturally follow, that in a country so sparsely settled as Virginia then was, and when the servile formed such a notable proportion of the available labor, the slaves and servants would frequently run away and go over the mountains or in the northern colonies, where they would be quite free from pursuit and where they might take up land for themselves. The slave was always a slave, and could be more easily tracked and captured; but the servant was readily disguised, and met with the sympathy and assistance of their fellow "covenanters." The newspapers of the day are filled with advertisements for runaways, and derived the greater part of their income from that source. I give in full one inserted by Washington, as an example. But he also suffered from the carelessness and indolence of his help, and, good steward as he was, often met with loss through the incapacity or dishonesty of his servants and hired laborers. John Winter, a painter, he noted in 1759, "before he had near finished painting my house, stole a good deal of my paint and oil, and apprehensive of justice, ran off." A wagoner, John Beard, "after driving my waggon about four months at the rate of £17. 10 per annum, behaved so remarkably ill, as to oblige me to turn him off, not before I had first sustained some loss by his running me in debt in many places of the road he used to travel." (1756.)

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\* Works, II, 297-299.

The documents printed in this volume are all copied from originals, and follow them closely in spelling and punctuation.

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD.

*Washington, September 30th, 1889.*



## CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, ETC.

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### A JOINER.

ARTICLES of Agreement made indented the First day of September One Thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine Between John Askew of the County of Fairfax Joiner of the one part and George Washington of the said County Gentleman of the other part sheweth that the said John Askew for the Considerations hereinafter mentioned doth oblige himself to work true and faithfully at his trade as a Joiner for the said George Washington during the space of one whole year to begin from the date hereof—that is to say he shall work duely from sunrise to sunset allowing proper times only for eating and if he shall loose any time at his said work either by negligence sickness or private business of his own the days and hours so lost is to be made up by him the said John Askew at the year's end. And the said John Askew doth further oblige himself by this writing to work at all times and in all places where the business of the said George Washington shall require, and that he will use his best endeavour's to instruct in the art of his trade any negro or negroes which the said George Washington shall cause to work with him during the twelve-month—

In consideration of these services well and truly performed, the said George Washington doth promise on his part to let the said John Askew and his wife live at a plantation adjoining commonly known by the name of Norths without paying rent, that he will find the said John good and wholesome provision's while he is at work, and at the expiration of the twelve month fully completed agreeable to the true intent hereof pay him the current sum of twenty-five pounds lawful money of Virginia. For the just performance of all each of these articles the said parties have interchangeably put their hands and seals the day and year first above written.\*

JOHN ASKEW, [SEAL.]  
G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON. [SEAL.]

Seal'd and Deliver'd  
in the Presence of  
JOHN ALTON  
J<sup>no</sup> FOSTER

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\*The above is in the handwriting of Washington. Much time appears to have been lost, for the £25 did not become due until February 4, 1761. From that date until 22 October 1761, his wages amounted to £12, 15, 1d, (afterwards reduced by £1, 17s, 7d, Sundays having been included by error,) and Washington then appears to have purchased all of Askew's tools, paying £38, 17s, 11d. Some work was subsequently performed by Askew, as in 1765 he was paid for five months and eight days' labor at the rate of £4 a month, and in December of the same year he received pay for 100½ days' work at the same rate. In 1766 he was employed by Washington to oversee his carpenters, and received for that task, £35. This arrangement was probably renewed for the following year, but death or migration intervened in April. I find the following exact entry in Washington's *Ledger*:

"By his wages since the 21st of December, when his year ended (18½ days lost time being first made up) deducting 14 days lost since the commencement of the present year, at £35 per per annum, £9, 15s, 10d.

## OVERSEER ON THE HOME PLANTATION.

ARTICLES of Agreement made and concluded upon the first day of May 1762, between George Washington of Fairfax County Gent. of the one part, and Burgess Mitchell of the Province of Maryland of the other part ; WITNESSETH, that the said Burgess Mitchell for the consideration's hereafter to be mentioned, doth covenant and agree to and with the said George Washington that he will well and truly serve the said Washington his heirs &c<sup>a</sup> in the capacity of an Overseer at his house Plantation till the end of October next ensuing—That is to say, he doth oblige himself under the penalty of being turned of[ f ] at any season between this and the said last of October, and of forfeiting his wages, in cases of failure or neglect, to observe and fulfil all, and each of these several articles following—to wit—He is to attend strictly to all orders and directions which he shall receive from the said George Washington and execute them with the greatest care Expedition and exactness—He is to remain constantly with the People over whom he is to look, and never stir from them during their hours of work, but at mealtimes—He is not to go off the Plantation (except on Sundays) without asking leave.—He is to give regular attention to the Stock by seeing that they are always in place and treating them as required. LASTLY the said Burgess Mitchell doth oblige himself under the penalty above mentioned to behave himself soberly, and diligently in all respects endeavouring by  
a prudent

a prudent and commendable conduct to gain the good esteem & liking of his said employer.

All these things being duly performed and done according to the true intent and meaning thereof, by the said Burgesss Mitchell, the said George Washington on his part doth oblige himself, his heirs &c<sup>a</sup> to pay the said Mitchell the sum of six pounds current money of Virginia—to pay likewise his Levy and Tax—and to find him in washing lodging and provisions to the end of October aforesaid. WITNESS their hands the day and year first above written

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.  
BURGIS MITCHELL

Signed in presence of  
WILLIAM CLIFTON  
THOS. BISHOP.

#### OVERSEER FOR AN OUTLYING PLANTATION.

ARTICLES of Agreement made and concluded upon this fifth day of August one Thousand seven hundred and sixty-two between George Washington of Fairfax County Gent<sup>n</sup> of the one part and Edward Voilett of the same County Planter of the other part WITNESSETH, that the said Edw<sup>d</sup> Voilett for the considerations hereafter to be mentioned doth covenant and agree to and with the said George Washington that he will well and truly serve the said Washington his heirs &c<sup>a</sup> in the capacity of an overseer at his Bullskin Quarters in Frederick County for the ensuing

ing year; That is to say he will use his utmost endeavours to make a large and good crop of Tobacco, Corn and what else may be required—That he will take all necessary and proper care of the Negroes committed to his management using them with proper humanity and discretion—The said Edw<sup>d</sup> Voilett doth also oblige himself to take all imaginable care of the said Washington's stock, as well of Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs, as of Horses; and that he will exert his utmost skill and industry to raise of each sort as many as he can, and this he is to do by a diligent attendance in seeing to their feeding and management, as well for the preservation, and increase of the stock themselves as for the sake of their dung to manure the ground with—He also obligeth himself to be careful of the milk and to make what butter he possibly can from the cows on the Plantations taking care tho' to let the Negroes have the benefit of the said milk after a proper use is made thereof and himself supplied—He doth further oblige himself to grow such kinds of Tobacco as the said Washington shall direct; and manage it as he shall require; especially he shall stem one full fourth part of his whole crop; Including the under Tobacco and such as is small, spotted or otherwise unfit for choice leaf—he is likewise to put no more than five leaves in a bundle the tyer leaf included, and to be as nice as possible in packing his Tobacco for prizing so that it may appear at Inspection as clean, and as neat as Tobacco well can—and whereas the said Washington keeps a sufficient Waggon, good horses, and has a fellow who can drive them, it is expected

pected that this said Waggon is to bring down the Tobacco which may be made to Hunting Ck. Warehouses. but if in case it should happen that other Waggons are employed for this purpose that then the said Edw<sup>d</sup> Voilett is to bear his proportionable part of the charge of the Tobacco so hired but otherwise to have his share clear of any expence.—The said Edw<sup>d</sup> Voilett is to get some honest neighbour of good character to see his corn measured at Lofting time, and after setting apart such and so much as will serve the several uses of the Plantation to pass his receipt for the remainder and become answerable for the forthcoming of it after making the proper allowance for shrinkage—He is also to keep the Key of the Corn houses, delivering out the same with the greatest frugality—Moreover the said Edward Voilett is to furnish himself with a Bed &c<sup>e</sup> ; and is obligated by this instrument of writing to keep no horse, or any other Beast of his own at these Quarters and for every Plow and two work Creatures doth agree to allow a share of Corn. LASTLY the said Edw<sup>d</sup> Voilett doth oblige himself to take the greatest care of all the working Tools and Plantation utensils; and to render an account of them whenever they shall be called for—to remain constantly on the Plantations looking after his People—and in all matters, or disputes, if any hereafter should arise, to conform to, and abide by, the Rules and Customs in the like cases.—And whereas there are a number of whiskey stills very contiguous to the said Plantations, and many idle, drunken and dissolute People continually resorting the same, priding themselves in debauching

bauching sober and well-inclined Persons the said Ed<sup>d</sup> Voilett doth promise as well for his own sake as his employers to avoid them as he ought; attending closely to his business, and follow all such directions as he may from time to time receive from the said George Washington.

Now these things being all duly performed and done on the part and behalf of the said Edw<sup>d</sup> Voilett the said George Washington in consideration thereof doth for himself his Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> agree to allow the said Ed<sup>d</sup> Voilett two clear shares of all the Tobacco, Corn and other Grain which he may raise on the aforesaid Plantations—But in cases where services are performed by hands not under the said Edward such as for Reaping Thrashing &c<sup>a</sup> and for which money or &c<sup>a</sup> must be paid that then the said Ed<sup>d</sup> Voilett is to contribute his proportion towards defraying the said Expences—The said Geo: Washington doth also agree to allow y<sup>e</sup> said Voilett as an encouragement for the care of his stock four hundred pounds of Porke, one young steer (not to exceed two years old) and four shoats to be under the age of twelve months—He doth also agree to allow the said Ed<sup>d</sup> Voilett to employ one of the negroe women upon the Plantation to assist at proper times his the said Edward's wife to milk churn and do the necessary services of the Dairy and for his wife's trouble and management of the same to allow her one-fourth part of what Butter she can make—the said Geo: being at the expence of building a good Dairy and furnishing it with milk Pans, Pails, &c<sup>a</sup>. And whereas it appears to be the well known intention of the said George

George Washington to have his tobacco made and managed in the best and neatest manner, which may in some measure lessen the quantity—he doth as an encouragement for the said Ed<sup>d</sup> Voilett's complying with that requisition engage to give him one shilling and six pence p<sup>r</sup> hund<sup>d</sup> more for the Tobacco which falls to his share than the general cash price which that commodity bears upon Potomack—or if any merchant or other person chooses to bid for his Tob<sup>o</sup>, in that case the said Washington will give as much as another or leave him at liberty to sell elsewhere, but the refusal must be given to him.

For the true and faithful performances of all and each of the several Articles herein contained as well on the part of the said Edw<sup>d</sup> Voilett as on that of the said George Washington the Party's doth each to the other bind themselves their Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> in the penal sum of twenty-five p<sup>ds</sup> Current Money of Virginia the day and year first above written.

EDWARD VIOLETT\* [SEAL]  
G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON [SEAL]

Signed Sealed and Delivered  
in presence of  
THO<sup>s</sup> BISHOP.

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\* Edward Violett (for that appears to have been the proper spelling) was in the service of Washington till 1765. In 1762 his allowances of tobacco (1854 lbs) and of corn (hard and soft) were valued at £26. 12. 11. I find no entries of like allowances in 1763 and 1764, but in 1765 he had shares in the produce of tobacco, hemp seed, butter and cheese, valued in all at £33. 5. 2.

## [FROM A SIMILAR CONTRACT.]

"That he will take all necessary and proper care of the negroes committed to his management, treating them with humanity and tenderness when sick, and preventing them when well, from running about and visiting without his consent; as also to forbid strange negroes frequenting their quarters without lawful excuses for so doing."

"So that the Tobacco when it comes to the warehouse [where the said Washington will always attend] may appear very good, very neat and very clean. The said Nelson Kelly doth also oblige himself to use his best endeavors to get his corn fodder, and hay [if any there should be] in good time, and not suffer those, because he shares no part of it, to take greater damage than other things."

"He likewise is, in case the said George should judge it expedient, to beat the apples which may be found upon the Plantations into cyder, making as much as he can thereof."

"And whereas nothing is more common than for the generallity of overseers to guess at the compliment of Ground [both Corn and Tobacco] which they design for a crop, by which means they sometimes have not half a sufficiency, and at others more than they can manage; now to prevent these inconveniences the said Nelson Kelly is required, and obliged to count his ground for both Corn and Tobacco with the greatest care and exactness and provide a proper quantity for each and as far as in him lyes to have the whole

secured under proper Fencing, that his Tobacco, as well as Corn, may not be exposed to such destruction and loss as is frequently occasioned by horses and cattle's breaking of it down and trampling thereon."

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AGREEMENT TO DISPOSE OF CROPS.

THIS CONTRACT made and Indented the Eighteenth day of January Anno Domini One Thousand Seven hundred and Sixty three between George Washington of Fairfax County and Colony of Virginia Gent<sup>n</sup> of the one part and John Carlyle and Robert Adam of the County and Colony aforesaid Gent<sup>n</sup> of the other part WITNESSETH that for and in consideration of the Sums and Covenants hereinafter expressed on the part and behalf of the said John Carlyle and Robert Adam the said George Washington doth hereby agree for himself his Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents to sell unto the said John Carlyle and Robert Adam their Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> all the Wheat which he the said George Washington his Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> shall raise for market in the space of seven years at his Plantations (now settled) in Fairfax County, to commence from the sale of the next wheat crop Inclusive AND the said George Washington doth further agree that his wheat shall be clean and as good as the year and Seasons will generally admit of and to cause the same to be delivered as soon as he conveniently can after Harvest. IN CONSIDERATION whereof the said John Carlyle and Robert Adam for themselves their and each

each of their Heirs Executors and Administrators doth hereby agree to allow the said George Washington his Heirs Executors Administrators The Sum of Three Shillings and nine pence current money of Virginia for every Bushel of Wheat so delivered and doth oblige themselves &c<sup>a</sup> to receive the said wheat at a good Landing in the Town of Alexandria or upon Four Mile Run Creek where Flats of a midling size can conveniently repair with their Loads and this they are to do without giving the said George Washington or his People any further trouble than to deliver the same at the side of the Vessel. AND the said John Carlyle and Robert Adam for themselves their and each of their Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> doth agree that after the said Flat or Flats, or other vessel or vessels is brought to either of the Landings aforesaid (as they shall direct and have notice given them or either of them or their Miller or Manager) that then the wheat is to lye at their Risque and remain their loss if any is sustained, and if any delays happen more than is necessary to the unloading the said vessel or vessels it is to be at their costs that is for each hand so detained at the rate of Two Shillings and six pence currency per day and so proportionably for hire of the vessel or vessels. LASTLY the said John Carlyle and Robert Adam doth oblige themselves their and each of their Heirs jointly and severally to pay unto the said George Washington his Heirs or Exec<sup>rs</sup> or his or their order immediately upon Delivery of the last Load of the years Crop of wheat the money for the whole amount of the said Crop, according to the several Deliverys and receipts and this  
without

without any let hindrance or denial of him the said George Washington his Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> And in case any part or the whole should be behindhand or unpaid after the delivery of the last Load as aforesaid that then the said sum to carry Interest till the same shall be paid. IN WITNESS whereof the Party's to these presents have Interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first above written and for further enforcing the same have Each to the other passed their Bonds bearing equal date with the Contract in the penal sum of One Thousand pounds currency.\*

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON [SEAL]

JOHN CARLYLE [SEAL]

ROBERT ADAM [SEAL]

Signed Sealed and Delivered

in presence of

ROBERT DALTON

JOHN DALTON.

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“STOCKING” A PLANTATION.

ARTICLES of Agreement made and Indented this Twenty Second day of January In the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty three

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\*In April 1764 the first sale under this contract appears to have been made,—257½ bushels. In 1765, the books show a delivery of 1112¾ bushels; in 1766, 2331½ bushels; in 1767, 1293½ bushels, and in 1768, 4994½ bushels of wheat, and 4304½ bushels of Indian corn. In 1769 the wheat sold amounted to 6241½ bushels, which seems to have been the maximum sale. It should be remembered that wheat for sale or export was comparatively a new feature in the economy of a Maryland or Virginian plantation, as the commercial policy of the mother country was designed to foster the cultivation of tobacco in those colonies, and nothing else.

between

between George Washington of Fairfax County and Colony of Virginia Esq<sup>r</sup> of the one part and Christopher Hardwick of the County of Frederick and Colony aforesaid Planter of the other part WITNESSETH that the said George Washington is hereby obliged to furnish and provide four good Negroe Slaves to wit two men and two women three of which to be purchased in the course of the ensuing Summer from some Guinea Ship and also if this scheme succeeds well two more out of the profits and to settle them on a piece of Land whereof the said George is possessed in Hampshire County lying on Potomack River between the Mouths of Great Cacapehon and little Cacapehon containing by patent Two hundred and Forty acres and to erect such convenient and necessary Buildings thereon as shall be requisite to the designs and to stock the said Plantation so soon as sufficient Provision is made for their support in the following manner that is to say with four Breeding Mares Twenty head of Neat Cattle Ten Sheep four Breeding Sows and to commit the said Negroes and stock of every kind to the immediate care and management of the said Christopher Hardwick as also if this scheme succeeds well two more hands to be purchased out of the profits but under the express Limitations and provisos hereafter particularly mentioned AND the said Christopher Hardwick in consideration thereof doth by these presents oblige himself his Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> to lodge in the hands of the said George Washington his Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> on or before the first day of January next a certain sum of money sufficient for the purchase of one half the Negroes and Stock defraying  
the

the Expences of Building (except one Tobacco and a dwelling House which is to be erected wholly at the costs of the said George Washington) laying in Tools cloathing for Negroes and in short for Incident charges of every nature and kind whatsoever AND the said Christopher Hardwick is to repair to and settle immediately on the said Land with the Negroe now delivered to him (which Negroe is to be received and reckoned one of the four above mentioned) and to use the utmost diligence to prepare in the best manner imaginable for the reception of the others he also obligeth himself firmly by these presents to exert his true endeavours to raise as much Tobacco, Hemp or whatever else shall be agreed upon between him and the said George Washington as the year seasons and circumstances will allow of and to practice the most effectual and careful methods to Increase the different species of stock that a profit may follow from the sales thereof and the said Christopher Hardwick is hereby expressly prohibited from selling anything of what kind whatsoever without the leave and consent of the said George Washington which belongeth to the said Plantation and he doth further agree that whatever part or Moiety of the Tobacco falling to his share shall be allowed for by the said George Washington (who is to receive the whole) at the curr<sup>t</sup> cash price which that commodity bears at Alexandria at Market time and the said Christopher doth hereby engage to exert his best skill and endeavours to make the Tobacco neat clean and merchantable. He likewise engages to use the greatest frugality and caution in all his proceedings to expend

no

no money but on unavoidable occasions and to live and act as much within himself as possible. AND the said George Washington and Christopher Hardwick doth Covenant and agree to and with the other that the Partnership by these presents entered into between them shall remain and be for and during the full time and Term of Ten years to commence from the first of January one thousand seven hundred and sixty four provided it appears that the said Christopher during that time conforms to the Articles of this agreement and by an honest sober and Industrious care pursues such measures as shall tend to the Common Interest of both but if ever it shall be found that he grows sottish and negligent or guilty of any mal-practices it shall then be in the power of the said George to dissolve it immediately and to recover damages according to the nature of the Offence and the said George Washington and Christopher Hardwick doth also covenant and agree to and with the other that at the expiration of the said Term or time of ten years or otherwise as the case may be the said Negroes Stock and utensils of every kind shall be divided between them both but the Land and appurtenances belonging shall be left in good and Tenantable repair by the said Christopher and revert to the sole and only use of the said George his Heirs &c<sup>a</sup> and Lastly the said George Washington and Christopher Hardwick doth further covenant and agree by these presents that the whole expence of purchasing Negroes, cloathing of them buying Stock Tools &c<sup>a</sup> together with the charges of Building (except as before excepted) and improving the said Land bringing Tobacco

Tobacco Hemp Grain Beef Porke Butter and other things to market shall be borne in equal proportion between them during the continuance of this partnership and that in the case of the Demise of the said Christopher before the end of the said term that then the Partnership is to dissolve of course. IN WITNESS whereof the Partys have interchangeably set their hands and seals and entered into Bonds for performance of Covenants the day and year first above written.

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON

CHRISTOPHER HARDWICK

Signed Sealed and Delivered

In the presence of

WALTER MAGOWAN

THOS BISHOP.

A Comparison drawn between Manufacturing and Importing, the goods on the other side,\* viz :

[IMPORTING]		£.	s.	d.
To 500 yds of best cotton to supply y <sup>e</sup> place of 365 yds. wool and 144 yds. Linsey @ 1/6 . . . . .	38	3	6	
To 773 yds. of best Oznaburgs as on y <sup>e</sup> other side @ 8d. . . . .	25	15	0	
To 40 yards Huccabuc @ 2/ . . . . .	4	0	0	
To 13 yards Diaper @ 3/ . . . . .	1	19	0	
To 7 yards Jeans @ 5/ . . . . .	1	15	0	
To 33 yards Cotton @ 2/ . . . . .	3	16		
	74	18	6	
Charges 12½ p <sup>r</sup> ct. . . . .	9	7	4	
	84	5	10	
25 p <sup>r</sup> ct. diff. exch: . . . . .	21	1	5	
Currency . . . . .	105	7	3	

\* Based upon weaving done in 1768.

## [MAKING ON THE ESTATE]

Wool to make 365 and 144 yards of woolen cloth			
vizt 499 lbs. @ $\frac{1}{4}$ . . . . .	32	5	0
Hemp to make y <sup>e</sup> contra cloth 800 lbs. @ 4d . . .	13	6	6
Weaving the above cloth, that is 509 yds. woolen,			
773 yds. Oznaburgs cotton, &c <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	30	15	10
	<hr/>		
	76	7	4
Balance . . . . .	28	19	11
	<hr/>		
	105	7	3

NOTE.—By this account it appears that the above Balance of £28. 19. 11. is all that is to defray the expence of spinning, hire of one white woman and five Negroe Girls, Cloathing, victualing, wheels, &c<sup>a</sup>

## A CARPENTER.

ARTICLES of Agreement entered into this 25th day of February anno Domini One thousand Seven hundred and seventy one, between Benjamin Buckler (late of the Province of Maryland but now) of Fairfax County in Virginia Carpenter of the one part, and George Washington of the said County and Colony Gent<sup>n</sup> of the other part WITNESSETH that the said Benjamin Buckler for the Considerations hereinafter mentioned doth by these presents oblige himself to work true and faithfully at his trade as a Carpenter for the said George Washington from the date hereof until the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December next ensuing; that is to say, he shall be constant and diligent at his business from day break till dark; and if the weather is such that he cannot work out of Doors or is unfit for him to do so that he shall in these Cases keep himself closely employed in making of shoes for the said George Washington or at  
any

any other business he may be set about ; and moreover is to Reap, or otherwise employ himself at harvest as the exigency of business may require. The said Benj<sup>a</sup> Buckler doth further agree not to absent himself from the service of the said George Washington without leave, and if it should so happen, that by sickness, or any other cause whatsoever he should lose any time the same shall be allowed for or made up at the years end. And whereas the said George Washington hath several Negro Carpenters which he proposes to put under the said Benjamin in order that they may work together and thereby be properly attended to the said Benjamin Buckler doth oblige himself to use his utmost endeavours to hurry and drive them on to the performance of so much work as they ought to render and for this purpose he the said Benjamin is hereby invested with sufficient power and authority which he is to make use of and to exercise with prudence and discretion. AND LASTLY, as the said Benj<sup>a</sup> Buckler is in a manner a stranger to the said Geo Washington and is received into his Service without a proper Recommendation, he the said Benj<sup>a</sup> doth hereby agree that it shall and may be lawfull for the said George Washington if he should hear anything disadvantageous of his Character, or find him the said Benj<sup>a</sup> in any respect dishonest or unfaithful or if upon trial he should prove Idle, and Negligent, either in his own work or in his looking after those who may be put under his charge to turn him the said Benj<sup>a</sup> of[f] at any time between this and the said 25<sup>th</sup> of December next, upon paying him for the time he has worked in proportion  
to

to the number of days and season he has been in the said Washington's service. IN consideration of these things well and truely performed and done by the said Benj Buckler the said George Washington doth promise and engage on his part to let the said Benj<sup>a</sup> Buckler have a House for himself wife and children to stay in during the aforementioned term, that he will find the said Benjamin with Three hundred pounds of Porke and three Barrels of Corn and will moreover at the expiration of the above term fully compleated and ended according to the true intent and meaning hereof pay or cause to be paid unto the said Benj<sup>a</sup> Buckler the Sum of Twenty-five pounds curr.⁹ For the true and faithful performance of all and singular these Articles the Parties each to the other do bind themselves in the full and just sum of Fifty pounds the day and year first written.

BENJ<sup>a</sup> <sup>his</sup> × BUCKLER  
<sub>mark</sub>  
 G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON

Signed & Sealed  
 in the presence of  
 LUND WASHINGTON

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HIRE OF A GARDENER.

ARTICLES of Agreement made this Eleventh day of January One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy

\*In a subsequent agreement with Caleb Stone, as "overlooker" to Washington's negro carpenters, said Stone will "to the best of his knowledge and skill, instruct all, and every of the said negroes which may be put under [him] in the Art and Mistery of the trade of a Carpenter (or Cowper if they should, at any time, be employed in this business.)"

three,

three, Between David Cowan late of Fredericksburg Gardener of the one part, and George Washington of Mount Vernon in Fairfax County Gentleman of the other part, WITNESSETH; that the said David Cowan for the hire, and other consideration's hereafter mentioned, doth Covenant and agree to serve the said George Washington for the space of a year from the date hereof, in the capacity of a Gardener; and that he will work duely and truely, during that time, at the business; as also when need be, or when thereunto required, employ himself in Grafting, Budding, and pruning of Fruit Trees and Vines—likewise in saving, at proper seasons, and due order, Seeds of all kinds—And the said David Cowan doth also covenant and agree to behave himself Honestly, soberly and peaceably, in the Family whilst he abides therein; and that he will not only stick closely to the work himself, but make others which may be with him, do so likewise; and moreover, that he will allow for all his own lost time—THESE THINGS being true and faithfully performed on the part of the said David Cowan, the said George Washington doth hereby oblige himself, his Heirs, &c<sup>a</sup> to pay him the said David Cowan the sum of Twenty five pounds curr<sup>t</sup> for the year, and to furnish him with washing, lodging and Diet—IN TESTIMONY of this agreement, the Parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year, first above written.

DAVID COWAN                    [SEAL]  
G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON                [SEAL]

Witness

THO<sup>s</sup> BISHOP.

## HIRE OF A NEGRO.

*Memorandum.*

On the day and year underwritten, we the subscribers, to wit, Philip Langfit, and George Washington have entered into, and by these presents doth oblige ourselves, our heirs, Executors and Administrators to abide by, the following Agreement.

## THAT IS TO SAY,

The said Philip Langfit doth agree to hire unto the above named George Washington for and during the term and time of Three years to commence from the date here of a certain Negroman slave named Nase (a Cowper by Trade and now in the possession of the said George Washington) for the consideration hereafter to be named—and during that period to suffer the said Geo: Washington to have hold, and detain the slave and him as of his lawful right and property to keep without any let, hindrance or molestation from him the said Langfit his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, or any other person or persons whatsoever during the continuance of the aforesaid term of three years from this date—And the said Philip Langfit doth farther agree to and with the said George Washington that if the said Negro Nase should happen to die before the expiration of the three years as aforesaid, or shall be disabled, or by any other means the said George Washington shall be deprived of the use and benefit of his labour that an allowance for the time

so

so lost shall be made in proportion to the sum stipulated for the whole term of three years.

The said George Washington on his part agreeing to cloath & feed the said Negro Nase in the manner Negro's generally are Cloathd & Fed; & to pay his Levy & other Taxes; and moreover to advance the said Philip Langfit the Sum of Fifty pounds Virg<sup>a</sup> Currency as a full compensation for the three years Services as above, the same to be fully compleated & ended agreeably to the true intent & meaning of the Parties otherwise the said Philip Langfit his heirs &c<sup>a</sup> is to refund in proportion to the time wanting of the three years Services as aforesaid.

To the true and faithful performance of this agreement the Parties have interchangeably set their hands and seals and each to the other doth bind himself, his Heirs, Ex<sup>rs</sup> & Adm<sup>rs</sup> in the penal sum of Fifty pounds Curr<sup>y</sup> this sixteenth day of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1773.

PHILL LANGFITT [SEAL]

Witness \*

LUND WASHINGTON

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\* Washington's signature has been cut off.

## IMPORTING PALATINES.

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WASHINGTON TO JAMES TILGHMAN, JR.

[*February 1774.*]

DEAR SIR. I am going to give you a little trouble, because I am persuaded you will excuse it—No good reason you'll say, but the best I can offer for such a liberty. Interested, as well as political motives, render it necessary for me to seat the lands which I have patented on the Ohio in the cheapest, most expeditious, and effectual manner. Many expedients have been proposed to accomplish this, and none, in my judgment, so likely as by importing of Palatines: but how to do this upon the best terms, is a question I wish to be resolved in. Few of these kind of people ever come to Virginia; whether because it is out of the common course of its trade, or because they themselves object to it, I am unable to determine. I shall take it very kind of you, therefore, to resolve the following questions, which I am persuaded you can do with precision, by enquiring of such gentlemen as have been engaged in this business.

Whether there is any difficulty in getting them in Holland? And from whence does it proceed? Whether they are to be had at all times, or at particular sea-

sons, and when? Whether they are engaged previous to the sending for them, and in what manner? Or do ships take their chance, after getting there? Upon what terms are they generally engaged there? And how much per poll do they commonly stand the importer, landed at Philadelphia? Is it customary to send an intelligent German in the ship that is to bring the Palatines? Does vessels ever go immediately to Holland for them, and if they do what cargos [do they] carry? Or, are they to go round, and what round? In short what plan would be recommended to me by the knowing ones, as best to import a full freight, say two or three hundred, or more to Alexandria? In case of a full freight, how are the numbers generally proportioned to the tonnage of a vessel?

Your favor in having these several queries, answered, with any other information which you may think necessary for me to be informed, I shall gratefully receive, as I am totally unacquainted with everything of the kind.

The hard and continued frost since the [ ] has confined everybody to their own homes, so that I have nothing new to entertain you with. Wheat in Alexandria has been in brisk demand all the year, and kept almost invariably at 5/ p<sup>r</sup> bushel. Flour has also met with a pretty ready sale at 12/. Jack Custis could not be content till he had got a yoke fellow in Nelly Calvert, to whom he was married the 3d inst! I hope, tho' you have removed from this part of the world, you do not mean to forsake us altogether, and that it is unnecessary to add, that I shall at all times be  
happy

happy in seeing you at this place. My best respects attend your good Father, sisters, and brothers; and with very sincere regard, I remain, &c.

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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ROBERT ADAM TO WASHINGTON.

ALEXANDRIA, 14 *February*, 1774.

Coll<sup>o</sup> Washington.

Sir,—In regard to your design of importing Palatines into Virginia, I believe it would be attended with some difficulty from several circumstances. They are in general much prejudiced against coming into Virginia or Maryland, as in either they are not allowed the same liberty of conscience in enjoying their own religion. This naturally inclines them more to Pennsylvania, as well as the number of their countrymen already settled in that government. They are generally brought in there by return ships that have carried sugar or rice to some port of Holland, and I am informed they have not the same liberty of transporting themselves they usually had, and that the same number does not come to Pennsylvania there formerly did. They are brought off now, as it were, by stealth, and not suffered to bring any effects with them. There are no cargos that can be shipped from this country to Holland till they are first landed in some port of England. As many of the Glasgow ships go there with tobacco, if you intended such a plan, it would be best to engage one of them to bring them out on the best terms you could. They are generally put on board at  
so

so much a freight, a full grown person makes a freight; under sixteen years of age, three persons make two freights, and children in proportion. The vessels made them pay I believe about eight pounds sterling a freight, after they come into this country; but if the money was advanced them in Holland, I suppose better terms might be made, perhaps between 4 or 5 £ a freight. There would be a necessity for you to send a trusty Dutchman or German home to engage the people, and make them fully acquainted with the encouragement you intend them, in order to help to wipe off the general disgust they have at coming to this country. But I should imagine the Scotch or Irish farmers would suit you as well and would be much easier got in. Many of them might be got here at this time, as they are much distressed in their own country. I shall endeavor to inform myself better of the Palatine trade and inform you hereafter.

There is no currants to be had in town, nor D. refined sugar. I have sent two loaves of single refined and a ps. common [      ]. Wheat I suppose will answer the purpose you intend it. The Molasses I bespoke for you some time ago is gone. Mr. Henley says Mr. Washington was to advise him in a day or two if he took it, and not hearing from him disposed of it. Capt. Conway has none. I can get you a hhd. from Mr. Hartshorn, he says very good; but I have not yet seen it. There is reasins to be got if they will do in place of the currants. I am respectfully, Sir, your most humble servant.

ROBERT ADAM.

## WASHINGTON TO HENRY RIDDELL.

MOUNT VERNON, 22 February, 1774.

Sir,—Mr. Young, hearing me express a desire of importing Palatines to settle on my lands on the Ohio, tells me, that, in discoursing of this matter in your company, you suggested an expedient, which might probably be attended with success; and that if I inclined to adopt it, you wished to be informed before the sailing of your ship.

The desire of seating and improving my lands on the Ohio, is founded on interested as well as political views. But the intention of importing Palatines for the purpose was more the effect of sudden thought, than mature consideration, because I am totally unacquainted with the manner, as well as the expense of doing it; and was led into the notion principally from a report of either this or some other ship of yours being blamed, for not taking an offered freight of these Germans at forty shillings sterling. I was thus induced to think if this charge was not much accumulated by other expenses, that I could fall on no better expedient to settle my lands with industrious people, than by such an importation.

The terms upon which I have thought of importing Palatines, or people from Ireland, or Scotland, are these; to import them at my expense where they are unable to transport themselves, into the Potomac River, and from hence to the Ohio; to have them, in the first case engaged to me under indenture; in the second,

second, by some other contract equally valid, to become tenants upon the terms hereafter mentioned; as without these securities, I would not encounter the expense, trouble and hazard of such an importation.

But to make matters as easy and agreeable as possible to these emigrants, I will engage, on my part, that the indentures shall be considered in no other light, than as a security for reimbursing to me every expense I am under, with interest, in importing them, removing them to the land, and supporting them there, till they can raise a crop for their own subsistence, giving up the said indentures, and considering them altogether as freemen and tenants, so soon as this shall happen; not to each person or family respectively, but when the whole accumulated expense shall be discharged; as I must for my own safety, consider them as justly bound for this payment, till the expiration of the indented terms, otherwise I must be an inevitable loser by every death or other accident; whilst they cannot, in the worst light, be considered as more than servants at large during the indented term. I can also engage to set them down upon as good land as any in that country; and, where there is neither house built, nor land cleared, I will allow them an exemption of rent four years; and where there is a house erected, and five acres of land cleared and fit for cultivation, two years.

They shall have the land upon lease for twenty-one years, under the usual covenant; and also at an annual rent, after the first becomes due, of four pounds sterling for each hundred acres, allowing each family to  
take

take more or less, as inclination and convenience may prompt, and I will, moreover, engage to renew the leases at the expiration of the above twenty-one years; and in like manner, at the end of every seven years afterwards, upon an increased rent, to be agreed on between the landlord and tenant; or in order to fix the matter absolutely, if this should be more agreeable, the rent may be increased at these periods in proportion to the increased value of that, or the adjoining lands possessed of equal advantages of soil and situation.

These are the terms on which I thought to import and plant people on my Ohio lands, which are, for the quantity, equal if not superior to any in that country; situate altogether upon the Ohio, or Great Kenhawa, two fine inland navigable rivers, abounding in fish and wild fowl of all sorts, as the lands do in wild meats of the best kind.

From Alexandria to the navigable waters of the Ohio, along a much frequented road used by wagons, is, according to the computed distance, two hundred miles. This land-carriage, if the inland navigation of the Potomac should be effected, than which I think nothing easier, will be reduced to sixty miles as matters now stand; some say to forty, and others to twenty. But call it the greatest distance, any commodity made upon any part of these lands of mine may be transported along a very easy water-communication to the settlement of Red-stone, where the land carriage at this time begins. To say nothing, therefore, of the advantages of raising stock of all kinds, and horses,  
which

which will carry themselves to market, and are now and will, from the nature of things, continue to be in great demand in the interior parts of this great continent, hemp, flax, pot-ashes, indigo, and the like, will well afford the expenses of this land-carriage, admitting it never may be reduced, and can be cultivated to advantage on the river bottoms in that country.

Having thus exhibited a general view of my design, I shall now be obliged to you, Sir, to inform me with as much precision as you can, what certainty there is that your ship will go to Holland; what probability there is of her getting Palatines, if she does go; when they may be expected in this country; what would be the freight; and, as near as you can judge, the whole incidental expense attending each person delivered at Alexandria; and, moreover, whether it would be expected, that the whole of these charges, including freight, should be paid down immediately on the arrival of the ship here, as it must appear rather hard to make a certain provision for an uncertain event.

It may not be amiss further to observe, that I see no prospect of these people being restrained in the smallest degree, either in their civil or religious principles; which take notice of, because these are privileges which mankind are solicitous to enjoy, and upon which emigrants must be anxious to be informed.

I wrote to Philadelphia by the last post for full information of the manner and charge of importing these people from Holland; and if your account in answer to this letter should prove agreeable to my wishes, I will send a more particular description of the lands which I  
wish

wish to settle, as well as copies of the plots, and do any other matter which may be judged necessary to further the design. I am, etc.

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HENRY RIDDELL TO WASHINGTON.

PISCATAWAY, 24 February, 1774.

Sir,—I was unluckily from home when Mr. Young brought your letter of the 22d, to this place, otherwise an answer would have been sent you by him.

When Mr. Young mentioned in conversation your desire of importing Palatines to settle your lands on the Ohio, the remembrance of Capt. Hyndman's having refused to accept a freight of 500 of these people, produced in me a thought, that perhaps through the channel of our company's agent at Rotterdam, the number you want might be procured; and as our ships frequently come from thence to this country, the importing of them might be of advantage to both of us. This reflexion induced me to acquaint you by Mr. Young, that a trial of this kind could be made which if agreeable to you, I could do my utmost to make successful. But here it is necessary to inform you that my only view of profit in this scheme, is from the freight. I have no other. I would propose, that you should be charged with the money advanced for procuring the Palatines, if imported at your expense, and to be liable for interest on that money till paid; also to be accountable for the freight when the people are landed here, which is customary.

With

With regard to the success of this scheme I can give you no certainty. The Captain who refused the freight above mentioned, told me, that the German princes whose territories lie upon the Rhine had prohibited their subjects from emigrating to America, but that the people get away privately, come down the Rhine in families, and land at Rotterdam, where they wait for shipping. The 500 Palatines or Germans offered him were such people as above described. They had money sufficient to bring them here, and offered two guineas p<sup>r</sup> poll freight, they to lay in their own provisions. A ship bound to Philadelphia accepted the offer.

The only way I can point out for making a trial of this kind is for you to write a letter of instructions, in which can be inserted the terms on which you could chuse to contract with Germans, the provision you have in view for them, and any other thing which may tend to bend the minds of these people to a settlement in Virginia; and also to point out the distinction in making contracts with those who may have money sufficient to bear their charges, and those who may not. This letter of instruction I would forward immediately, that means may be used to engage the people before the ship's arrival at Rotterdam, and if the plan succeeds, I will agree to transport them to this country for two pounds sterling p<sup>r</sup> poll, you to be at the expense of laying in their provisions and stores, we to find them ship room, and to land them either at your landing or at Alexandria.

I can certainly say that some of our company's ships  
will

will go to Rotterdam this ensuing summer, and it is probable this will be the destination of the ship to load at the mouth of Piscataway Creek ; if so, her arrival in this country from thence may be in August or September. But I cannot with precision say what the Germans may cost you landed here. For my own part, I am unacquainted with the business any further than the information which Capt. Hyndman gave me last summer. From what he said, I conjecture that the Germans imported into this country lately paid their own charges, but how they are provided for, or dispose of themselves after being imported, is what I am entirely ignorant of. However, this I could know by writing to Philadelphia.

It would give me pleasure to be of service to you in this importation, and am, Sir, your ever humble servant,

HENRY RIDDELL.

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JOHN ROSS TO ROBERT ADAM.

PHILADELPHIA, 1 March, 1774.

Sir,—I have before me your favor of 18th, ult<sup>o</sup>, come only to my hand by this post, and in answer, have to inform you that the expenses attending the importation of German passengers have been so great of late years, that it is not by any means an object of attention to have any concern in that trade. I have had no connection in that way these three or four years, and those who have embarked pretty much therein, have got so heart

heart sick of their concern in that way, that they have now totally declined it. Rotterdam is the place where the Germans are shipped from, but the charges attending each before you can secure them and get them on board prove at times so considerable, that those who have not been concerned can scarcely credit. The Germans cannot easily be prevailed on to embark to any part of America, but that of Pennsylvania. Most of those that leave the Country have many connections in this province, and no condition can possibly reconcile the generality of them to embark for any of the other provinces. Flour is entirely prohibited in Holland, nor can I think of any thing that might answer from this country to be sent thither.

When log-wood paid a freight, the shipping employed in that trade, took frequently a cargo of wood in at the Bay, with which they proceeded in the winter or early in the spring for Rotterdam. But that business being quite overdone, most of the vessels go from England or some ports in Europe in ballast, and credit on London to take their reimbursement for the charges of the vessel, outfits, etc. Such a vessel as may have about two hundred freights, will probably require from a thousand to £1500 sterling outfits, possibly more, as it depends on the debts the people may contract in getting down from Germany to Holland.

I could not undertake the delivering of any number of Germans with you, knowing the difficulty of getting them to agree to their going to any other place except that of Pennsylvania, where they have hopes of meeting

ing their relations, or old acquaintances. Some family might possibly be engaged after [*seal*] to this place, but as they have their own terms to make respecting the time they serve to redeem them, it is no easy matter to treat with them. A native of Germany that resided in your country and could describe such advantages as they might have by going thither, might help to influence them.

Excuse hurry. In the meantime believe me to be with respect, Sir, your very humble servant,

JN<sup>o</sup> ROSS.

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WASHINGTON TO HENRY RIDDELL.

MOUNT VERNON, 1 March, 1774.

Sir,—On Sunday afternoon your favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> came to my hands. As you profess to know but little of the expence attending the importation of Palatines, and it is a business I am totally ignorant of myself, I am afraid to plunge into it without further consideration and advice, and therefore must lay aside my scheme, altogether or in part, for the present; but as I have already given you a general view of my plan to which I beg leave to refer, I would first ask whether it is of importance enough to any of your ships coming from Rotterdam hence, to take in a freight of about 80 or an hundred of these Germans, provided that number of men, or men and their wives, with not more than one child to a family, could be had under the usual indenture? If this could be done, I would at all events  
make

make tryal of that number and kind; but do not incline to encounter the inconvenience and expence of families incumbered with many children, as these would only add to my expences without contributing to my design. I will either consider these people as my property during their indented term, affording them a reasonable and necessary support and maintenance, and receive the fruits of their labor during the stipulated servitude; or, if they will be jointly bound for each other, and let their indentures remain as security (which is all the security the nature of the case will admit of), that all the expence I am put to in importing, planting and supporting them on the land till they can raise a crop for themselves, shall be repaid me with interest, they may be considered as free people, and appropriate the fruits of their labor (having regard to my disbursements) in any manner they please. In the latter case they must be considered from the first as tenants, upon the terms mentioned in my last. In the first case they will go to the land under the favorable circumstances and assurances of becoming tenants at the expiration of their indented term, upon the very farms they have been making, so that in fact they will ultimately reap the benefit of their own labor, bestowed at my expence during their servitude. This much for the indented people. As to those who are able and desirous of paying the expence of their own passages, I can be under no engagement to them, unless it be a reciprocal one: that is, I will encounter no expence or engage in no promise to them if they are left at large with me; although I could undertake, upon their engaging to become

come tenants upon the terms mentioned in my last, to provide them in good land in the neighborhood of the others; so as they might form an entire settlement of their own, there being land enough (belonging to me) to afford comfortable farms for 300 families.

If you think you can supply me with this number of Palatines, of these kinds, and upon these terms, I should be glad to know it between this and Saturday, as I shall then undertake a journey from which I shall not be returned till the 20<sup>th</sup> of March; and in whatever manner you think a more formal proposition or declaration of my intention (than is contained in this and my former letter) should be made, please to point it out, and to whom it is to be addressed, and I will endeavor to do it. In the meanwhile, I have to thank you, Sir, for your obliging offers to serve me in this matter, and to assure that I am, your most obedient, humble servant,

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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HENRY RIDDELL, TO WASHINGTON.

PISCATAWAY, 2 MARCH, 1774.

Sir,—I cannot certainly engage to import the number of Germans mentioned in your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup>, for owing to my ignorance of the trade, I have no consistent principles, or anything like a certainty, to induce me to enter on a positive agreement for the delivery of these people here. But should you choose it I can forward to Rotterdam the terms you offer such Germans as are able to export themselves, and also the terms  
you

you offer those who are not, and therefore must come under indenture before exportation. Should the people accept of these terms, the ship will bring them out; if not, you will be subjected to no other inconvenience than a delay in the settlement of your lands for a few months. With regard to those people who are able to export themselves, no money will be required from you or us to set them down here; but in exporting the indented servants, some charges which do not now occur to us, may be required. Would it not, therefore, be proper that you inform me of the price p<sup>r</sup> poll you would be satisfied to give, for the delivery of such servants here, that in calculating the expence, my friends might keep within your limits. Altho the number you mention is small, yet if you choose to be troubled with no more for the present I will endeavor to get you these, but can make no positive agreement to deliver them here. It will be necessary that you mention the number of years the indented servants must agree for, and should you relish this plan, I will give orders that no others than such as you describe, shall be engaged. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

HENRY RIDDELL.

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WASHINGTON TO HENRY RIDDELL.

MOUNT VERNON, 5 March, 1774.

Sir,—The reasons which you assign for not undertaking positively to furnish me with the number and kind of Palatines mentioned in my last letter, I must confess

confess are cogent. At the same time it obliges me, under that uncertainty, to lay aside the scheme until I can be advised from Philadelphia (to which place I had written for information previous to your first conversation with Mr. Young) of the expence and certainty attending a measure of this kind. For the disadvantage on my side, of standing bound to provide for these people if they do come, and having no certainty of receiving them, is, that if any other scheme should cast up in the meanwhile, I dare not embrace it, nor engage tenants singly, as they occasionally may offer, as I have no doubt of many doing, when there are houses and lands prepared to their hands; otherwise I might be involved in difficulties from which I could not easily extricate myself. But if it is necessary to you to know (on account of giving the earliest information to your correspondent) whether these people will be wanting, or not, before I can return from Berkeley, Frederick, &c., I shall have no objection towards importing the number and kinds mentioned in my last, provided they will come indented to me, or my assigns, in the usual manner for four years; and be sold, if I find it my interest to do so (as they are in Philadelphia) as common servants, during that term. I cannot suffer much from the uncertainty, if they are to be had upon these terms, and I see no reason why they may not as well come here as to Philadelphia, except that the latter is the general rendezvous of them. It may, therefore, rest with you, Sir, to write immediately or not, for eighty or a hundred of such kinds as I mentioned in my last, as you shall find it  
your

your interest; and I will, upon their arrival at Piscataway, pay you the freight down, as also the contingent charges with interest, as soon after as I possibly can, in case I should not find it convenient to deposit the whole sum at once.

If you should not think the project of consequence enough to the interest of your ship, to attempt it, I must decline the importation altogether for the present. If on the other hand you incline me to make the experiment, I shall rely on your friendship to recommend to the captain or person who is to provide the stores, to lay them in upon the best terms, and be governed by the customary allowance, both in respect to quantity and quality, taking care to have no stint of the first, as the surplusage can be accounted for upon the delivery here. I shall add no more at present, than that I am, &c,

G<sup>o</sup>. WASHINGTON.

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RIDDELL TO WASHINGTON.

PISCATAWAY, 18 March, 1774.

Sir,—I return you Mr. Ross's letter, and will think no further of importing Germans, the difficulty attending it being so great. I am, etc,

HENRY RIDDELL.

## WOELPER TO WASHINGTON.

PHILADELPHIA, 23 March, 1774.

HONNOUR<sup>d</sup> SIR. When I Return Last from Williams-Burg I was Favourt with your Letter Dated feby. 7<sup>th</sup> I most Humble pegg your pardon in not observing my Duty upon your favour Rec<sup>d</sup> Dated the i of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1773: I was In expectaision to have the Honour to waited upon you In a littel Time after I Rec<sup>d</sup> it, but I was prevented by the wather.

My Tract of Land which I have by govenors Dunwoodie proclamaision, I sold it Last when I come up from W<sup>ms</sup> Burg. I am greatly oblige to you, for your addveice.

Of your Honnour Choose to buy my claim of the 2000 acers, for which I got my warrant, in the king's proclamaision, 1763, you are will come to it. If you can get the warrant altherd to a nother county, where you pleass.

Sir, as you have some Intainsion to Impord some of my Country man, To Sattlen on your Land, and to Resolve your Quistion, which you has macke, to your Servant, to which I will give you, my Humble answer, to the best of my knowledge, and Informmaision, by the aldish (?) pallatians, Importer, Samuel Hamel, as for The

i. It is Some Times, a great difcultay to get them, In Holland, or Garmany, on accot of the Interpreters (: or what the coalled Newlanders:) when these go up to Garmany, some Tack up some monye by the marchant

chant Inholland, and some not, when they come back to holland, the march<sup>t</sup> there, effect them Some monye, who give most to him, will get all the peopell which come with him. The never get less than a Garman Ducat, which is this currency 14 Shilling, Some Times 20 Shilling.

2. They are not to be had at all Times, but in the month of Mag, June, July, and Augst. So when this Newlanders Ingage Some Fameles, in garmany, they aquint the march<sup>t</sup> in Holland, who many Freight they have upon this, they get the Ship Reathy, it must be one Engewish vessell, no Hollandish Dears come haire, or bring annye pallatians in they sent for this vessells to Engeland.

3. How they are procouret in holland, I maintion it, In the first articual, and upon their arrival in holland, they muss be shipped and provision Found, Till they are all together, that the ship can be Loadet In 2 or 3 dags, etc. If the ship is provoidet to Rec<sup>d</sup> them on Boart and with provision, then they do Seat of —

4. Upon what Terms, they are generally expected, and how mosh a head will stand, is the first, viz.

1 Ducat to the Newlander

2 the Rhine Freight

3 the provision

4 the passage over Seas

5 a Littel, which they called head mony, in holland, which may stand, between  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$  £ virginia Currency a Freight, a Freight Is a man, or a woman, and one that is  $\frac{1}{4}$  yarrs old, and under  $\frac{1}{4}$  yarrs to 4 yarrs, one is a half a Freight, and under 4 yarr, they are free, but  
this

this get no Bet statt(?) now provisions is the whole expencies, except a Littel for Medicain.

5. It is not custommary to sent Some Body to garmany to bring them Down to holland (: which I main- tion in my first articular:) as These Newlanders make a Sort of Trad of it, M<sup>r</sup> Howel says it will better to Sent Some Body with good Commission and an agray- ment up to Garmany, That they may sign an agray- ment, Then they cannot be persuadet away from him by another Newlander, or March<sup>t</sup> in Holland, and they will be chipper, then to get them in Holl<sup>d</sup>; whereas the Newlanders can<sup>t</sup> bring them on to spent or ad- vance them monye, with which they charge them with- out their knowledge, which mackes the Freight so high to 25, 30, 36 £, which will be prevented.

6. A Vessell may go Immediately to Holland, with its Load, paying the Duty in Engeland. Let them have Tobacco, Tare, pitch, this articuals are the best marcket in Ambster Dam, or Rother Dam, and will never fail.

7. I maintion'd in the 6<sup>th</sup> articual what marcket will suit best, as for the whole Cargo Garmans may cost Mr. Howel, which Imported this 30 yarrs saiys it will amount to 25 or 2800 £ Starling, 300 Freight in a ves- sell which cary 2000 or 2500 barel of Flower. N. B. Nobody can give annye aco<sup>t</sup> by the Famelis, because some are strang in Number, with 2, 3, 4 Sons, and it may be so mainy Dacters, some in Number 4 or 5 in all, and some no more but 2 or 3 in a Famely.

8. They are logged in Bed Stats, macke of boards, 6 feet long and 2 feet waith. This Bed Stats are so  
Regulatted,

Regulatted, acorting to the vessel. Some Bed Stat are made for 2. 3. 4. 5. 6 Freight to hold, and to Lay in it, and to keep Theries Necessary by them. The other paggach must be but Down in the hold.

I went to some Friend, bud non could give me better advice then what I know, and Mr. Howel Toll me. I most Humble aqaint you with all particulars, who this Famelis can be had, and Imported. Mr. Howel atweisses and Fincke, it will be best if a man gos up to garmany, he will bring them chiper, and so mainy as him pleases, as they generally are imported, as I maintioned in the 5th articual, with good powers of adorny and on agrayment, how you will hold them upon the Land.

Hon<sup>d</sup> Sir, you was pleased to ask me, If I would Inclaine to go to Holland. It is true, I macke a sort of promiss to not go to Sea again. If your Hon<sup>r</sup> shall Intrusst me with, I will act that you shall have no Reason to complain against me, If God spare my Leife and health.

As for Terms, I will Liffe it to your Hon<sup>r</sup> Self. You know very wel when a man Travels, he cant save as when he is at home a man must be all most a yar to go from Till his Return. I shall keep good hause, as it Lais in my power. You know very well that I am no Drincker or Spent Extrarody.

That this Peopell will come over upon better Terms, and none the better, as half so moch, as they commonly stand, a Freight will not stand so hight, to bring them Down upon the Land, on Ohio, as they Stand, when they come to Philad<sup>a</sup>

That

That they may loocke upon themself as your property is no more but Just till they Reimburse your monye again, affter this to get a Leais, for one or more 200 acres, to pay Rent, and after the times is expaiert to renew it again. That you expect that they would be jointly bound together for their proformens, It will be Just.

When I shall have the Hon<sup>r</sup> to waited upon you, I would proposse to you, which will be, I believe, far better to your Indress, That is to say, some freight will be that come over from Holl<sup>d</sup> or Garmany, will be singel men or women. Those can be dissposed of and Rathy cash rec<sup>d</sup> for them, this cash can be aploy<sup>d</sup> for expences to Transport their Famelis down to your Land.

Sir, as I have answerd to you Dissener, I will proposse some thing to you, If you tacke it in your Consideraision, I believe, it would be best, and not half so moch expences as to Import some Garmans.

That is to say to Draw an agrayment how you want to settlen your Land, and to get it printed and a man go from Court to Court house, in Court Times, That you promiss to Tack them up in a Sertain place, on the Rooth, to bring them to pitts Burg, and to provoid for them, There to Tack them down by wather, as far as the Connoss can go up and down, and find them (:Till they macke a Crop :) with provision, as you Thincke proper, as to Reimbursement the Samie, as by the Garmans.

Sir, I belive you will get as mainy as you pleas. This Famely will know allratty how to worck in this parts.

parts. In particular, If you provoid some stock for those which are going for 3 yars, and then to Devoid the stock. by this mains you will get your monye sooner, as by the former, when you get your Chair of Cattels, and when they have some Steers, you Tack them on you for your payment, or on your Debt. If it Cost you so mainy pounds as to bring in Garmans, with Expences, and to buy Cattels, and expences to pitts Burg, and if one accident shall happenet by them, that a men Died, There will be constand a nother that will Tack the widow. By the other if a father Died, and a parsall of smal Childern be Lefft, what will you do with them.

Hon<sup>d</sup> Sir, If you shall choose the first, It will be best to Imploy a vessell here, and Load it, with Tobaco. In failing of Tobaco, sent it to Carolina, to get Reice, Tare and pitch, which will save agreatyle expences, and there must be made out some agent in Holland, in good Times to procur good and sound provision, and all nessisarys, and in need some monye. I suppose your Hon<sup>r</sup> has a Corresponds in Engeland. If not Mr. Howel here will (: I believe:) macke out one for you in Holland. This vessell must be Rathy, finish when they peopel come Down the River Rhine to Tacke them In, which will save a greatilly expences.

Honnourd Sir, I am your Most Humble and Most obet: serv<sup>t</sup>

J. D. WOELPPER.\*

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\* "Congress having resolved to raise a Regiment of Germans to counteract the designs of our Enemies, I must beg leave to recommend to their notice John David Wilpert now a first Lieutenant in Col. Shee's Battalion,  
to

JAMES TILGHMAN, JR., TO WASHINGTON.

PHILADELPHIA, 7 APRIL, 1774.

DEAR SIR. The Reason of my not giving a speedier Answer to yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> February, was owing to my being out of Town when it arrived. I have had some conversation upon the subject of it with some of the gentlemen in the Palatine Trade, and shall think myself fortunate, if any information that I can give may be of the least service to you in this affair. I have talked about it particularly with Mr. Robert Morris, whose judgment in a matter of this nature I would rely upon more than that of any man I know. His opinion is against your sending out a ship for Palatines for the following reasons, which appear to me good.

The expence of chartering a ship, and the money that must be advanced in the purchase of the servants

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to the office of captain in said Regiment ; I am personally acquainted with him and know that he joined the Virginia forces under my command in the year 1754 and continued in service the whole War, during which he conducted himself as an active vigilant and brave officer he is a German, and his merit as a soldier entitles him much to the office he wishes for."—*Washington to the President of Congress, 8 July, 1776.*

July 17th, "David Wilper" was appointed a captain of a company to be added to the German battalion.—*Journals.*

"Congress having been pleased to appoint Mr. Wilper to the command of a company in the German battalion now raising, I have directed him to repair to Philadelphia for their orders. From my acquaintance with him, I am persuaded his conduct as an officer will meet their approbation, and thanking them for their kind attention to my recommendation of him, I have the honor, &c."—*Washington to the President of Congress, 22 July, 1776.*

(for

(for we are not allowed to send any thing from hence to Holland,) would be exceeding high, and the loss to which the importer is subject by their dying is often very great and always considerable; their being crowded together a great number of them in a ship makes contagious Disorders frequent amongst them, which often carry off great numbers of them, especially if they happen to have a tedious passage. But granting no accident of this kind should happen, Mr. Morris is of opinion that you may purchase them in Philadelphia upon much better Terms than you can import them. The Reason of it is this: the People here generally prefer the Children to the Men and Women, so that the latter are commonly left upon the Importer's Hands, after the former are all sold, and as the expence of maintaining them is very heavy, they are willing to get rid of them upon any Terms. Mr. Morris told me that the last Fall he would have sold thirty or forty Families, such as you want, for one half what they cost him. Another advantage in purchasing here is that you may get 12 or 18 months' credit for the Payment of them. Mr. Morris thinks the Trade so troublesome and precarious that he has declined it, but was kind enough to tell me that he would gladly give his advice and assistance in procuring them upon the easiest Terms, which I know will be very much in his power, should you conclude to purchase here; or should you determine rather to import them yourself, he will in that case, supply you with necessary and full Directions on that Head.

I have passed but a gloomy winter in Philadelphia;  
my

my disorder was more deeply rooted than I at first imagined. I am now tolerably well recovered; the sweet spring seems to have brought me a fresh supply of health and spirits, and I hope shortly to be once more myself. My happiness is still increased by the agreeable Prospect that I have of shortly seeing all my Friends in Virginia. I shall leave Philadelphia in a week, and in one week more hope to pay a visit to Mount Vernon. Be good enough to present my best compliments to Mrs. Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Custis, and Mr. L. Washington, and believe me, most respectfully and sincerely yours,

JAMES TILGHMAN, JUN<sup>r</sup>\*

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\*This scheme came to naught. Washington purchasing some servants and negroes, and hiring some laborers, sent two parties to the Ohio, but they broke up soon after reaching his lands. See *Writings of Washington*, (Ford's Edition), ii, 451; iii, 128.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY, 23 April, 1775.

FORTY DOLLARS REWARD.—Ran away from the subscriber on the 19th instant, at night, two servant men, viz. THOMAS SPEARS, a joiner, born in *Bristol*, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches and a half high, slender made. He has light grey or blueish colored eyes, a little pock-marked, and freckled, with sandy colored hair, cut short; his voice is coarse, and somewhat drawling. He took with him a coat, waistcoat, and breeches, of light brown duffil [Duffield], with black horn buttons, a light colored cloth waistcoat, old leather breeches, check and oznabrig shirts, a pair of new milled yarn stockings, a pair of old ribbed ditto, new oznabrig trowsers, and a felt hat, not much the worse for wear. WILLIAM WEBSTER, a brick maker, born in *Scotland*, and talks pretty broad. He is about 5 feet 6 inches high and well made, rather turned of 30, with light brown hair, and roundish face. He has an olive colored coat, pretty much worn, with black horn buttons, duffil waistcoat and breeches (same as Spears's), oznabrig trowsers, and check and oznabrig shirts. They went off in a small yawl, with turpentine sides and bottom, the inside painted with a mixture

ture of tar and red lead. Masters of Vessels are cautioned against receiving of them, and the above reward is offered to any person who will deliver them at my dwelling-house in this county, or TWENTY DOLLARS for each of them.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

—*The Virginia Gazette*, 4 May, 1775.

## INDENTURE OR COVENANT.

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**T**his Indenture, Made the *Fourteenth* Day of *November* in the *fifteenth* Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *George the third* King of Great Britain, &c. And in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and *seventy four* Between *Charles Bush of Southwark in the County of Surry Labourer* of the one Part, and *Frederick Baker of London Mariner* of the other part Witnesseth That the said *Charles Bush* for the Consideration hereinafter mentioned, hath, and by these Presents doth Covenant, Grant and Agree to, and with the said *Frederick Baker, his* Executors, Administrators and Assigns, That *he* the said *Charles Bush* shall and will, as a Faithful Covenant Servant, well and truly serve *Fred: Baker his* Executors, Administrators or Assigns, in the Plantation of *Virginia & Maryland* beyond the Seas, for the space of *Five* Years next ensuing *his* Arrival in the said Plantation, in the Employment of a *Servant*. And the said *Charles Bush* doth hereby Covenant and declare *him* self, now to be of the Age of *eighteen* Years and no Covenant or Contracted Servant to any Person or Persons. And the said *Frederick Baker* for *himself his* Executors, and Assigns, in Consideration thereof do hereby Covenant,

Promise and Agree to and with the said *Charles Bush* his Executors and Administrators, that he the said *Fred. Baker* his Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall and will at *his or* their own proper Cost and Charges, with what Convenient Speed they may, carry and convey or cause to be carried and conveyed over unto the said Plantation, the said *Charles Bush* and from henceforth and during the said voyage, and also during the said Term, shall and will at the like Cost and Charges, provide and allow the said *Charles Bush* all necessary *Cloaths*, Meat, Drink, Washing, and Lodging, Fitting and Convenient for *him* as Covenant Servants in such Cases are usually provided for and allowed. And for the true Performance of the Premises, the said Parties to these Presents bind themselves, their Executors and Administrators, the either to the other, in the Penal Sum of *Thirty* Pounds Sterling, firmly by these Presents. *In Witness* whereof they have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year above written.

the mark of

CHARLES ✕ BUSH. [SEAL.]

Sealed and delivered  
in the Presence of  
J. PATTINSON  
C. CAPON.

*These are to certify*, that the above-named *Charles Bush* came before me *Thomas Pattinson* Deputy to the Patentee at *Gravesend* the Day and Year above written,  
and

and declared *himself* to be no Covenant nor Contracted Servant to any Person or Persons, to be of the Age of *eighteen* Years, not kidnapped nor enticed, but desirous to serve the above-named or *his* assigns, *five* Years, according to the Tenor of his Indenture above written. All of which is Registered in the office for that Purpose, appointed by the Letters Patents. *In witness* whereof I have affixed the common Seal of the said office.

THO<sup>s</sup> PATTINSON,

D. P.

ENDORSEMENT:

"January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1775. The Ship Elizabeth arrived at her moorings."

FREDERICK BAKER.



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